

REMARKS**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 5-9 have been withdrawn from consideration.

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, claims 3-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 10 has been newly added. No new matter is believed to have been added by this Amendment. For example, with respect to amended claim 1, the first operating member for instance may correspond to elements 11, 12, 31-33 in figure 6 and the second operating member for instance may correspond to element 13 (13-1 to 13-3) in figure 6. In addition, the contents of the amended claim 1 are for example supported in figure 7 (step 306, step 308 and step 310). Regarding new claim 10, the third operating member for example may correspond to element 14 in figure 6. In addition, The contents of the claim 10 are supported in figure 7 (steps 305-306, steps 307-308 and steps 309-310). These are simply examples provided for the Examiner's reference.

Upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 2 and 10 would be pending.

II. Specification

The Examiner has requested a new descriptive title. Accordingly, to address the Examiner's concerns, the title has been amended as follows: AUTO-FOCUSING OPTICAL APPARATUS WITH FOCUS DETECTION AREA SETTING CAPABILITY.

III. Claims Rejections

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Narisawa (US 5,749,000).

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an optical apparatus having a focus detection unit detecting a focus state of an image-taking optical system with respect to an object included in a focus detection area; a first operating member which is operated for changing at least one of a size and a position of the focus detection area; a memory for storing at least one of size and position of the focus detection area; a second operating member which is operated for setting the focus detection area used for detecting the focus state of the image-taking optical system; and a controller performing a storage process of storing at least one of size and position of the focus detection area determined through the first operating member into the memory in association with the second operating member.

As claimed, the optical apparatus of claim 1 has a second operating member which is operated for setting the focus detection area used for detecting the focus state of the image-taking optical system. In addition, according to claim 1, at least one of size and position of the focus detection area determined through the first operating member is stored in the memory in association with the second operating member.

On the contrary, Narisawa (US 5,749,000) shows a technique for selecting the specified focus detection area by voice input from a photographer (see e.g., column 11, lines 26-32). The camera of Narisawa also has a microphone 700 used for inputting the photographer's voice (see e.g., column 5, lines 15-16). Narisawa however does not teach or suggest the member corresponding to the second operating member, as claimed. In the camera of Narisawa, the focus detection area is set by inputting photographer's voice into the microphone 700. In addition, the focus detection area is stored in the memory in association with the photographer's voice but not the

microphone 700. Therefore, the microphone 700 of Narisawa is different from the second operating member as claimed.

Furthermore, the technique of Narisawa is believed to be different from the technique of the claimed arrangement as noted above and, as such, is believed to be silent as to the claimed combination of claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are distinguishable over Narisawa.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

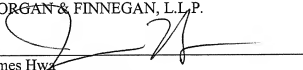
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5350.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5350.

Respectfully submitted,
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